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CHALENG 2005 Survey: VA New Jersey HCS (VAMC East Orange - 561 and VAMC Lyons - 561A4)

A. Homeless Veteran Estimates:

1. Estimated Number of Homeless Veterans (from the CHALENG Point of Contact Survey): 6500

2. Estimated Number of Veterans who are Chronically Homeless: 2535

The federal Interagency Council on Homelessness defines chronic homelessness as follows:

> A person experiencing chronic homelessness is defined as an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 53, March 21, 2005, page 13588; http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/gensec.pdf)

Our figure for chronically homeless is a conservative estimate. We used the following formula to obtain this number*:

> 6500 (estimated number of homeless veterans in service area) **x chronically homeless rate (39 %)** (percentage of individuals who have been homeless for a year or more or had at least four homeless episodes during the past three years AND have a mental health or substance abuse disorder).*

*Note: # of homeless veterans in the service area comes from 2005 CHALENG POC survey. "Chronically homeless rate" comes from FY 2005 homeless veteran intake data provided by the VA Northeast Program Evaluation Center. (Special thanks to Dr. Wes Kasprow, NEPEC investigator for providing this data.)

Our estimate is conservative. It DOES NOT also include veterans who may not have had a substance abuse/mental health disorder but did have a disabling medical condition (VA does record information on medical conditions but not on whether the condition is "disabling").

B. Data from the Point of Contact Survey

1. Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory	Beds	# of additional beds site could use
Emergency Beds	0	15
Transitional Housing Beds	114	50
Permanent Housing Beds	0	400

2. Number of Homeless Veteran Families (veterans with minor dependents) Served in FY 2005: 0

3. CHALENG Point of Contact Action Plan for FY 2005

Other	Need: family housing. Collaborate with local VSO's, nonprofits, and state and submit a VA Grant and Per Diem application that will create transitional housing for families.
Legal Assistance	Provide guidance on child support issues.
Immediate shelter	Work with county officials to develop more reliable access to emergency shelter.

C. Data from the CHALENG Participant Survey

Number of Participant Surveys: **26** **Non-VA staff Participants: 33.3%**
Homeless/Formerly Homeless: **23.1%**

1. Needs Ranking (1=Need Unmet .... 5= Need Met)

Need	Site Mean Score	*% want to work on this need now	VHA Mean** Score (all VA sites)
Personal hygiene	4.40	4.0%	3.47
Food	4.32	.0%	3.80
Clothing	4.44	9.0%	3.61
Emergency (immediate) shelter	4.24	17.0%	3.33
Halfway house or transitional living facility	4.25	22.0%	3.07
Long-term, permanent housing	3.92	30.0%	2.49
Detoxification from substances	4.20	13.0%	3.41
Treatment for substance abuse	4.48	17.0%	3.55
Services for emotional or psychiatric problems	4.5	17.0%	3.46
Treatment for dual diagnosis	4.3	13.0%	3.30
Family counseling	4.12	9.0%	2.99
Medical services	4.44	13.0%	3.78
Women's health care	4.12	.0%	3.23
Help with medication	4.20	.0%	3.46
Drop-in center or day program	3.83	4.0%	2.98
AIDS/HIV testing/counseling	4.36	.0%	3.51
TB testing	4.56	.0%	3.71
TB treatment	4.54	.0%	3.57
Hepatitis C testing	4.56	.0%	3.63
Dental care	4.28	.0%	2.59
Eye care	4.20	.0%	2.88
Glasses	4.08	.0%	2.88
VA disability/pension	4.00	4.0%	3.40
Welfare payments	4.16	.0%	3.03
SSI/SSD process	4.08	4.0%	3.10
Guardianship (financial)	3.79	.0%	2.85
Help managing money	4.21	17.0%	2.87
Job training	4.24	26.0%	3.02
Help with finding a job or getting employment	4.28	39.0%	3.14
Help getting needed documents or identification	4.20	9.0%	3.28
Help with transportation	4.04	13.0%	3.02
Education	4.20	4.0%	3.00
Child care	3.04	.0%	2.45
Legal assistance	4.12	9.0%	2.71
Discharge upgrade	4.00	.0%	3.00
Spiritual	4.04	4.0%	3.36
Re-entry services for incarcerated veterans	4.20	.0%	2.72
Elder Healthcare	3.56	.0%	3.06

*** % of site participants who identified this need as one of the top three they would like to work on now.**
****VHA: Veterans Healthcare Administration (136 reporting POC sites, n=4321).**

2. Level of Collaboration Activities Between VA and Community

Implementation Scale **1 = None**, no steps taken to initiate implementation of the strategy. **2 = Low**, in planning and/or initial minor steps taken. **3 = Moderate**, significant steps taken but full implementation not achieved. **4 = High**, strategy fully implemented.	**Site Mean Score (non-VA respondents only)**
Interagency Coordinating Body - Representatives from the VA and your agency meet formally to exchange information, do needs assessment, plan formal agreements, and promote access to services.	2.75
Co-location of Services - Services from the VA and your agency provided in one location.	2.88
Cross-Training - Staff training about the objectives, procedures and services of the VA and your agency.	2.63
Interagency Agreements/ Memoranda of Understanding - Formal and informal agreements between the VA and your agency covering such areas as collaboration, referrals, sharing client information, or coordinating services.	3.00
Interagency Client Tracking Systems/ Management Information Systems - Shared computer tracking systems that link the VA and your agency to promote information sharing, referrals, and client access.	1.63
Pooled/Joint Funding - Combining or layering funds from the VA and your agency to create new resources or services.	1.88
Uniform Applications, Eligibility Criteria, and Intake Assessments – Standardized form that the client fills out only once to apply for services at the VA and your agency.	2.13
Interagency Service Delivery Team/ Provider Coalition - Service team comprised of staff from the VA and your agency to assist clients with multiple needs.	2.71
Consolidation of Programs/ Agencies - Combining programs from the VA and your agency under one administrative structure to integrate service delivery.	2.38
Flexible Funding – Flexible funding used to fill gaps or acquire additional resources to further systems integration; e.g. existence of a VA and/or community agency fund used for contingencies, emergencies, or to purchase services not usually available for clients.	2.29
Use of Special Waivers - Waiving requirements for funding, eligibility or service delivery to reduce barriers to service, eliminate duplication of services, or promote access to comprehensive services; e.g. VA providing services to clients typically ineligible for certain services (e.g. dental) or community agencies waiving entry requirements to allow clients access to services.	2.13
System Integration Coordinator Position - A specific staff position focused on systems integration activities such as identifying agencies, staffing interagency meetings, and assisting with joint proposal development.	2.14

3. VA/Community Integration

Integration Scale: 1 (low) to 5 (high)	**Site Mean Score (non-VA respondents only)**
VA Accessibility: In general, how accessible do you feel VA services are to homeless veterans in the community?	4.00
VA Service Coordination: Rate the ability of the VA to coordinate clinical services for homeless veterans with your agency.	4.00

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CHALENG 2005 Survey: VAMC Bronx, NY - 526, VA New York Harbor HCS (VAMC Brooklyn - 630A4 and VAMC New York - 630) and VA Hudson Valley HCS (VAMC Castle Point - 620A4 and VAH Montrose - 620)

A. Homeless Veteran Estimates:

1. Estimated Number of Homeless Veterans (from the CHALENG Point of Contact Survey): 10000

2. Estimated Number of Veterans who are Chronically Homeless: 3500

The federal Interagency Council on Homelessness defines chronic homelessness as follows:

> A person experiencing chronic homelessness is defined as an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 53, March 21, 2005, page 13588; http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/gensec.pdf)

Our figure for chronically homeless is a conservative estimate. We used the following formula to obtain this number*:

> 10000 (estimated number of homeless veterans in service area) **x chronically homeless rate (35 %)** (percentage of individuals who have been homeless for a year or more or had at least four homeless episodes during the past three years AND have a mental health or substance abuse disorder).*

*Note: # of homeless veterans in the service area comes from 2005 CHALENG POC survey. "Chronically homeless rate" comes from FY 2005 homeless veteran intake data provided by the VA Northeast Program Evaluation Center. (Special thanks to Dr. Wes Kasprow, NEPEC investigator for providing this data.)

Our estimate is conservative. It DOES NOT also include veterans who may not have had a substance abuse/mental health disorder but did have a disabling medical condition (VA does record information on medical conditions but not on whether the condition is "disabling").

B. Data from the Point of Contact Survey

1. Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory	Beds	# of additional beds site could use
Emergency Beds	8000	0
Transitional Housing Beds	400	500
Permanent Housing Beds	270	1500

2. Number of Homeless Veteran Families (veterans with minor dependents) Served in FY 2005: 15

3. CHALENG Point of Contact Action Plan for FY 2005

Long-term, permanent housing	Expand outreach to community providers capable of providing housing and educate them about VA Grant and Per Diem.
Transitional living facility or halfway house	Expand outreach to community providers capable of providing housing and educate them about VA Grant and Per Diem.
Help finding a job or getting employment	Partner with at least one additional job-finding or employment service in the community.

C. Data from the CHALENG Participant Survey

Number of Participant Surveys: **105 Non-VA staff Participants: 35.1%**
Homeless/Formerly Homeless: **61.0%**

1. Needs Ranking (1=Need Unmet .... 5= Need Met)

Need	Site Mean Score	*% want to work on this need now	VHA Mean** Score (all VA sites)
Personal hygiene	3.08	1.0%	3.47
Food	3.59	4.0%	3.80
Clothing	3.06	1.0%	3.61
Emergency (immediate) shelter	3.26	12.0%	3.33
Halfway house or transitional living facility	2.44	31.0%	3.07
Long-term, permanent housing	1.91	67.0%	2.49
Detoxification from substances	3.74	7.0%	3.41
Treatment for substance abuse	3.80	19.0%	3.55
Services for emotional or psychiatric problems	3.4	12.0%	3.46
Treatment for dual diagnosis	3.3	7.0%	3.30
Family counseling	2.64	2.0%	2.99
Medical services	3.99	4.0%	3.78
Women's health care	2.88	2.0%	3.23
Help with medication	3.68	1.0%	3.46
Drop-in center or day program	3.16	1.0%	2.98
AIDS/HIV testing/counseling	3.74	.0%	3.51
TB testing	3.87	1.0%	3.71
TB treatment	3.78	.0%	3.57
Hepatitis C testing	3.96	1.0%	3.63
Dental care	2.76	22.0%	2.59
Eye care	3.38	1.0%	2.88
Glasses	3.46	.0%	2.88
VA disability/pension	2.87	8.0%	3.40
Welfare payments	2.47	1.0%	3.03
SSI/SSD process	2.45	8.0%	3.10
Guardianship (financial)	2.41	2.0%	2.85
Help managing money	2.78	.0%	2.87
Job training	2.83	18.0%	3.02
Help with finding a job or getting employment	2.96	28.0%	3.14
Help getting needed documents or identification	3.04	4.0%	3.28
Help with transportation	2.90	2.0%	3.02
Education	2.92	8.0%	3.00
Child care	2.41	1.0%	2.45
Legal assistance	2.45	10.0%	2.71
Discharge upgrade	2.77	4.0%	3.00
Spiritual	3.12	5.0%	3.36
Re-entry services for incarcerated veterans	2.62	8.0%	2.72
Elder Healthcare	2.87	.0%	3.06

*** % of site participants who identified this need as one of the top three they would like to work on now.**
****VHA: Veterans Healthcare Administration (136 reporting POC sites, n=4321).**

2. Level of Collaboration Activities Between VA and Community

Implementation Scale **1 = None**, no steps taken to initiate implementation of the strategy. **2 = Low**, in planning and/or initial minor steps taken. **3 = Moderate**, significant steps taken but full implementation not achieved. **4 = High**, strategy fully implemented.	**Site Mean Score (non-VA respondents only)**
Interagency Coordinating Body - Representatives from the VA and your agency meet formally to exchange information, do needs assessment, plan formal agreements, and promote access to services.	2.28
Co-location of Services - Services from the VA and your agency provided in one location.	1.71
Cross-Training - Staff training about the objectives, procedures and services of the VA and your agency.	1.78
Interagency Agreements/ Memoranda of Understanding - Formal and informal agreements between the VA and your agency covering such areas as collaboration, referrals, sharing client information, or coordinating services.	2.52
Interagency Client Tracking Systems/ Management Information Systems - Shared computer tracking systems that link the VA and your agency to promote information sharing, referrals, and client access.	1.48
Pooled/Joint Funding - Combining or layering funds from the VA and your agency to create new resources or services.	1.79
Uniform Applications, Eligibility Criteria, and Intake Assessments – Standardized form that the client fills out only once to apply for services at the VA and your agency.	1.72
Interagency Service Delivery Team/ Provider Coalition - Service team comprised of staff from the VA and your agency to assist clients with multiple needs.	1.96
Consolidation of Programs/ Agencies - Combining programs from the VA and your agency under one administrative structure to integrate service delivery.	1.68
Flexible Funding – Flexible funding used to fill gaps or acquire additional resources to further systems integration; e.g. existence of a VA and/or community agency fund used for contingencies, emergencies, or to purchase services not usually available for clients.	1.24
Use of Special Waivers - Waiving requirements for funding, eligibility or service delivery to reduce barriers to service, eliminate duplication of services, or promote access to comprehensive services; e.g. VA providing services to clients typically ineligible for certain services (e.g. dental) or community agencies waiving entry requirements to allow clients access to services.	1.46
System Integration Coordinator Position - A specific staff position focused on systems integration activities such as identifying agencies, staffing interagency meetings, and assisting with joint proposal development.	1.64

3. VA/Community Integration

Integration Scale: 1 (low) to 5 (high)	**Site Mean Score (non-VA respondents only)**
VA Accessibility: In general, how accessible do you feel VA services are to homeless veterans in the community?	2.84
VA Service Coordination: Rate the ability of the VA to coordinate clinical services for homeless veterans with your agency.	2.96

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CHALENG 2005 Survey: VAMC Northport, NY - 632

A. Homeless Veteran Estimates:

1. Estimated Number of Homeless Veterans (from the CHALENG Point of Contact Survey): 500

2. Estimated Number of Veterans who are Chronically Homeless: 185

The federal Interagency Council on Homelessness defines chronic homelessness as follows:

> A person experiencing chronic homelessness is defined as an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years. A disabling condition is defined as a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 53, March 21, 2005, page 13588; http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa05/gensec.pdf)

Our figure for chronically homeless is a conservative estimate. We used the following formula to obtain this number*:

> 500 (estimated number of homeless veterans in service area) **x chronically homeless rate (37 %)** (percentage of individuals who have been homeless for a year or more or had at least four homeless episodes during the past three years AND have a mental health or substance abuse disorder).*

*Note: # of homeless veterans in the service area comes from 2005 CHALENG POC survey. "Chronically homeless rate" comes from FY 2005 homeless veteran intake data provided by the VA Northeast Program Evaluation Center. (Special thanks to Dr. Wes Kasprow, NEPEC investigator for providing this data.)

Our estimate is conservative. It DOES NOT also include veterans who may not have had a substance abuse/mental health disorder but did have a disabling medical condition (VA does record information on medical conditions but not on whether the condition is "disabling").

B. Data from the Point of Contact Survey

1. Housing Inventory

Housing Inventory	Beds	# of additional beds site could use
Emergency Beds	541	0
Transitional Housing Beds	220	0
Permanent Housing Beds	431	15

2. Number of Homeless Veteran Families (veterans with minor dependents) Served in FY 2005: 3

3. CHALENG Point of Contact Action Plan for FY 2005

Long-term, permanent housing	VA will establish a formal or informal partnership with at least one new community agency/housing provider and at least one new permanent group residence for homeless veterans will be opened in the community.
Help finding a job or getting employment	In Nassau County, VA will work with United Veterans Beacon House to expand job counseling and employment services through DOL/HVRP grant. Will also work with Department of Labor job counselors in providing services to homeless veterans.
Dental care	VA will continue to provide dental care to homeless veterans in VA contracted housing programs under VHA Directive 2002-080. Other veterans will be referred to community agencies offering dental services on a sliding-scale basis.

C. Data from the CHALENG Participant Survey

Number of Participant Surveys: **52 Non-VA staff Participants: 66.0%**
Homeless/Formerly Homeless: **17.3%**

1. Needs Ranking (1=Need Unmet .... 5= Need Met)

Need	Site Mean Score	*% want to work on this need now	VHA Mean** Score (all VA sites)
Personal hygiene	3.67	2.0%	3.47
Food	4.14	.0%	3.80
Clothing	3.95	.0%	3.61
Emergency (immediate) shelter	3.98	18.0%	3.33
Halfway house or transitional living facility	3.93	18.0%	3.07
Long-term, permanent housing	2.98	47.0%	2.49
Detoxification from substances	3.60	4.0%	3.41
Treatment for substance abuse	3.92	9.0%	3.55
Services for emotional or psychiatric problems	3.7	13.0%	3.46
Treatment for dual diagnosis	3.4	16.0%	3.30
Family counseling	3.36	4.0%	2.99
Medical services	4.26	16.0%	3.78
Women's health care	3.82	4.0%	3.23
Help with medication	3.84	7.0%	3.46
Drop-in center or day program	3.44	2.0%	2.98
AIDS/HIV testing/counseling	3.87	.0%	3.51
TB testing	3.95	.0%	3.71
TB treatment	3.93	.0%	3.57
Hepatitis C testing	3.95	.0%	3.63
Dental care	2.78	18.0%	2.59
Eye care	3.43	2.0%	2.88
Glasses	3.51	2.0%	2.88
VA disability/pension	3.49	11.0%	3.40
Welfare payments	3.76	7.0%	3.03
SSI/SSD process	3.56	7.0%	3.10
Guardianship (financial)	3.37	2.0%	2.85
Help managing money	3.37	4.0%	2.87
Job training	3.43	9.0%	3.02
Help with finding a job or getting employment	3.47	22.0%	3.14
Help getting needed documents or identification	3.44	.0%	3.28
Help with transportation	3.26	18.0%	3.02
Education	3.36	2.0%	3.00
Child care	3.21	2.0%	2.45
Legal assistance	3.40	11.0%	2.71
Discharge upgrade	3.48	2.0%	3.00
Spiritual	3.52	9.0%	3.36
Re-entry services for incarcerated veterans	3.15	9.0%	2.72
Elder Healthcare	3.66	2.0%	3.06

*** % of site participants who identified this need as one of the top three they would like to work on now.**
****VHA: Veterans Healthcare Administration (136 reporting POC sites, n=4321).**

2. Level of Collaboration Activities Between VA and Community

Implementation Scale **1 = None**, no steps taken to initiate implementation of the strategy. **2 = Low**, in planning and/or initial minor steps taken. **3 = Moderate**, significant steps taken but full implementation not achieved. **4 = High**, strategy fully implemented.	**Site Mean Score (non-VA respondents only)**
Interagency Coordinating Body - Representatives from the VA and your agency meet formally to exchange information, do needs assessment, plan formal agreements, and promote access to services.	2.42
Co-location of Services - Services from the VA and your agency provided in one location.	2.06
Cross-Training - Staff training about the objectives, procedures and services of the VA and your agency.	2.13
Interagency Agreements/ Memoranda of Understanding - Formal and informal agreements between the VA and your agency covering such areas as collaboration, referrals, sharing client information, or coordinating services.	2.33
Interagency Client Tracking Systems/ Management Information Systems - Shared computer tracking systems that link the VA and your agency to promote information sharing, referrals, and client access.	1.47
Pooled/Joint Funding - Combining or layering funds from the VA and your agency to create new resources or services.	1.68
Uniform Applications, Eligibility Criteria, and Intake Assessments – Standardized form that the client fills out only once to apply for services at the VA and your agency.	2.13
Interagency Service Delivery Team/ Provider Coalition - Service team comprised of staff from the VA and your agency to assist clients with multiple needs.	2.23
Consolidation of Programs/ Agencies - Combining programs from the VA and your agency under one administrative structure to integrate service delivery.	2.10
Flexible Funding – Flexible funding used to fill gaps or acquire additional resources to further systems integration; e.g. existence of a VA and/or community agency fund used for contingencies, emergencies, or to purchase services not usually available for clients.	1.52
Use of Special Waivers - Waiving requirements for funding, eligibility or service delivery to reduce barriers to service, eliminate duplication of services, or promote access to comprehensive services; e.g. VA providing services to clients typically ineligible for certain services (e.g. dental) or community agencies waiving entry requirements to allow clients access to services.	1.80
System Integration Coordinator Position - A specific staff position focused on systems integration activities such as identifying agencies, staffing interagency meetings, and assisting with joint proposal development.	1.93

3. VA/Community Integration

Integration Scale: 1 (low) to 5 (high)	**Site Mean Score (non-VA respondents only)**
VA Accessibility: In general, how accessible do you feel VA services are to homeless veterans in the community?	3.48
VA Service Coordination: Rate the ability of the VA to coordinate clinical services for homeless veterans with your agency.	3.66